
EMTAS Conference 2023

Cultures, classrooms and curricula

The 2023 EMTAS conference continues to deliver cutting edge, innovative approaches to working with children for whom English is an additional language (EAL), children from ethnic minority communities and those from Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) communities.

Keynote Speakers

Our keynote speakers will be addressing current issues from insightful, research-informed perspectives. **Jonathan Bifield** is an expert in supporting languages across the curriculum and an EAL Co-ordinator at a large secondary school.

Sarah Coles is Team Leader of Hampshire EMTAS and a PhD student researching young children's experiences of growing up in two languages.

Jonathan and Sarah will be disseminating key findings from their many years' experience in the field of EAL.

We will also be joined by **Jacob Parvin and Jack Hill**, university students who will be sharing a film they have made about the challenges faced by Romany Gypsies in the modern world.

Workshops

Delegates can tailor their conference experience by choosing two workshops. These will develop the skills and knowledge you need to develop your professional practice. The workshops cover all Key Stages and will be facilitated by experienced EMTAS staff and colleagues from the EAL community. The workshops offer a range of topics including:

- ✓ using ICT and ChatGPT to support EAL learners in the classroom
- ✓ making effective use of persona dolls in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1
- ✓ resourcing EAL in the secondary classroom
- ✓ meeting the needs of late arrivals in the classroom
- ✓ approaches to the delivery of RSE to children from GTRSB communities
- ✓ best practice interventions

Also available are stands displaying a range of resources you can access to support you in your work in school. You can view the stands during breaks, when you will have opportunities to meet and network with other skilled professionals.

Spaces are limited - sign up now to guarantee your place at this exciting conference.

Keynote Speakers' Biographies



Jonathan Bifield

I am an EAL Coordinator at a large secondary school in the East Midlands with over 66% of the cohort being defined as EAL. I have a wide range of experience in both English language teaching and EAL and have worked in a range of settings from primary to further education in Thailand and the UK. I have an undergraduate degree in TEFL & Educations Studies as well as an MEd in Bilingualism in Education. I am a regular contributor to NALDIC's EAL journal and have written a range of articles including: translanguaging in the mainstream, vocabulary, reading, writing, supporting new arrivals, digital technology, and co-teaching. I have my own blog 'EAL in the Daylight' which aims to support practitioners in providing the best support to EAL learners in their classrooms. My recent contribution to the ResearchEd guide to EAL featured a chapter on writing for EAL learners.



Sarah Coles

After a stint teaching English as a foreign language overseas and another as a full time class teacher in the UK, Sarah joined what was then the Bilingual Learners Support Service, moving into the field of English as an Additional Language (EAL). She has since amassed 25 years' experience in EAL and is currently interim Team Leader of Hampshire EMTAS.

Alongside her day job, Sarah has spent the last five years as a part-time PhD student at the University of Reading. For her thesis, she has been researching the language learning experiences of UK-born bilingual learners. Supported by schools in Basingstoke, Rushmoor and Andover, Sarah has focused on a small group of bilingual children as they have gone through their first year of full-time education. A key aim of her research has been to establish how the children's two languages have developed through Year R and what influences have played a part in shaping their linguistic landscapes. Sarah hopes that her research will help to develop our understanding of UK-born bilingual learners – a fast-growing group of children in schools - and how best to support them as they grow up in two languages.



Jacob Parvin and Jack Hill makers of 'Our Gypsy Blood'

Jacob and Jack have created a short documentary, '**Our Gypsy Blood**', which looks into the Romany Traveller community in Southern England. We follow Jacob, a young Romany film-maker, as he grapples with the discovery that his community is struggling immensely in the modern world. He interviews Travellers to better understand the history of the Romany people and where they can go from here.

Jacob is the director of this film. He says:

"I've been a passionate film fan my whole life, and becoming a filmmaker has been my lifelong dream. I'm also a Romany Traveller, with my family having a long lineage of travelling, however, due to the bullying and stigma, I never got to express my culture. So when the chance came, I channelled my film-making skills to help de-stigmatise the community and show the beauty of it to a wider audience, so that future generations don't have to wait until adulthood to show their love for the Romany."

Jack Hill is the producer of '**Our Gypsy Blood**'. He says:

"I have been filmmaking since I was a child, directing and writing various fiction projects, always looking for enticing stories and characters to portray. So, when Jacob approached me with the idea to film a documentary based on the Romany culture, a culture they had grappled to express openly all their life, I was on board in an instant. This community is so rich in history, with beautiful people and traditions that too many are completely unaware of, for this community is completely overcast by a false veil of stigma and racism. The general public need to know that the Romany community is here, they are far from dangerous, and they are here to stay, despite the discrimination they face. All I hope is that those who hold any stigma towards the Romany people will truly learn from this film. Travellers live a beautiful and peaceful way of life, let us celebrate it! For as a non-Romany looking into this community, having known very little before shooting this film, I believe we could all benefit from a documentary such as this."

To book your place:

Date/time: Thursday 12th October 2023

Course code: EMTAS Conference HCC_CS_HTLC_EMTA_00001CON

Location: Holiday Inn, Winchester

Cost: £165 sub, £198 full (including lunch and refreshments)

For further information and online booking, HCC employees visit:

[HTLC / HIAS Learning Zone Guidance Documents](#)

[The Learning Zone](#) for HCC staff

[The Learning Zone](#) for external customers

Directions to the Holiday Inn, Telegraph Hill, Winchester, SO21 1HZ
There is a direct bus from Winchester Station to The Holiday Inn.

